

# Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch Update

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# National System of Ocean Parks

- 74 units in 26 States & Territories
- 5,100 mi shoreline
- 3.2 million ac ocean & Great Lakes waters
- Diverse ecosystems—Watersheds, rivers, estuaries & open ocean
- Arctic to tropical ecosystems



# Ocean Park Paradox



- ✓ Public expects protection
- ✓ Fishing consistent with state regulations
- ✓ 60 percent of US population in coastal counties
- ✓ Habitat loss, watershed degradation
- ✓ Beauty, ecological integrity and capacity for self-renewal

# Organizational Challenges



- 2001 NPS Advisory Board
- Marine inventories postponed
- Habitat maps missing
- No national program
- Complex marine jurisdiction

# U.S. Ocean Action Plan

## NPS Role

- U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan announced Dec 2006
- Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch





# Discover, Map & Protect

- Describe ocean habitats and wildlife
- Assess and monitor their condition
- Conserve and restore ocean parks for future generations
- Connect people to ocean parks



# Mapping Partnerships

- ❑ USGS-NPS Interagency Agreement
- ❑ Shoreline and underwater habitat maps
- ❑ Protocols for habitat types
- ❑ Gap analysis for three park prototypes
- ❑ Interagency workshop early summer '08



# Coastal Assessments

52 parks  
Acadia  
Assateague  
Boston Harbor  
Island  
Cape Cod  
Fire Island  
Gateway  
Sagamore Hill  
Saugus Iron  
Works  
Go Charlie!





# Education-Outreach-Inreach

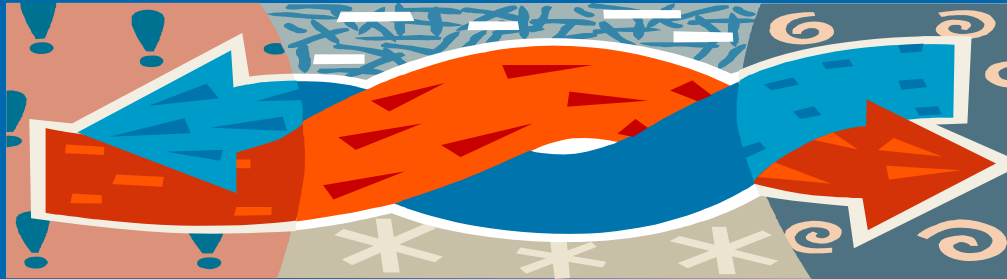
- Marine Recreational Stewardship
- Connecting to anglers & boaters
- Natl Science Teachers Mtg Mar 2008
- Peer to Peer: NRPC Newsletters
- 2008 Intl Year of the Reef



William Bake



# Seamless Network Agreement



- Parks, Wildlife Refuges, NOAA Marine Sanctuaries & Estuarine Research Reserves
- Shared ocean heritage, overlapping boundaries
- Leveraging resources & increasing efficiency
- New England – Wells, ME March '08
- New York/New Jersey – Rutgers May '08

# What You Can Do

- Keep up the good work
- Make OFS requests
- Utilize recreational fee monies
- Connect people to ocean parks
- Tell our story...
- NPS Oceans web site just google: “below the waves”

